agencies and other information media. Implementation of this agreement is expected to take several forms including exchange of information, scientific research books, exchange of press reporters and photographers, experts and trainees and publicity material.

BURKINA FASO

11. A trade agreement was signed during the visit.

ACCRA

12. Text of an agreement on settingup a Joint Commission with Ghana was initialled.

More Outlets for Petroleum Products in Delhi

*255. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open more retail outlets for petrol, diesel and LPG under IOC in Delhi during the last month of the current year and the first quarter of the next year;

(b) whether Government have identified the sites for that purpose;

(c) whether some reservation on allotment of such outlets has since been made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Letters of Intent have been issued by IOC as well as other oil marketing companies for opening of petrol/dicsel retail outlets and LPG distributorships in Delhi. Commissioning of these dealerships/distributorships depends on the allotment of suitable land by the Delhi Development Authority.

(c) and (d) The existing policy provides for reservation in the allotment of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products for different sections of the society as under: SC/ST - 25%, Defence - 7 1/2% Physically Handicapped - 7 1/ 2%, Freedom Fighter - 3%, Outstanding Sportsperson - 2%, Open -55%.

Dismantling Oil Selection Boards

*256. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil Selection Boards will be dismantled after introduction of a market determined pricing policy for petrol, diesel and allied products;

(b) if so, whether petrol and diesel outlets would be allotted on a competitive and commercial basis; and

(c) if so, the details of schedule for introduction of a new system of allotting retail petroleum and diesel outlets in a market determined petroleum sector? -

THE MINISTER OF STATE tDF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) The system of selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products through selection Boards will continue so long as the situation demands. The timings for introduction of market determined prices is not certain.

(b) Even now, the normal selections are being made through the process of advertisement and interview of the applicants by a duly constituted Oil Selection Board, on competitive basis.

(c) There is no proposal at present to introduce a new system of alloting dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products.

Rural Telephone Package

*257. SHRI SANATAN BISI:
SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently announced "Rural Telephone Package"; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the amount of expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

1. The Rural Telecom Package announced on 22 November 1995 has the following components:

(a) Free calls increased from 150 to 250 per billing cycle for rural subscribers.

(b) Registration fee reduced from Rs. 2000.00 to Rs. 1000.00 for rural subscribers serviced by exchange systems upto 10,000 lines.

(c) The telephone rental for all rural subscribers reduced to Rs. 100.00.

(d) The amount of Installation charges presently fixed at Rs. 300/- shall be maintained upto 31.3.98 for rural subscribers.

(e) Local, STD & ISD charges reduced by 25% for first 200 calls beyond free call limit for rural subscribers.

(f) Commission payable to Panchayat PCO Franchisees enhanced from 20% to 50% on gross turn-over including the telephone to be provided to the franchisees of panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojna launhced by Deptt. of Posts.

(g) Commission to STD/ISD/PCO franchisees:

(i) in rural areas enhanced to 25% on gross turn-over per month.

(ii) Commission to PCO franchisees in non-rural areas of the predominanty hilly states/tribal and hilly areas enhanced to 20% on the gross turnover upto Rs. 50,000.00 per month and 15% there-after.

(iii) Commission to STD PCO Franchisees in the rest of the country to be paid @ 16% upto a gross of Rs 20,000.00 per month; @ 15% on gross turn over between Rs 20,000.00 and Rs. 50,000.00 per month and @ 12% on the gross turnover beyond Rs. 50,000.00 per month.

(h) .Group dialling facility extended upto 30' Kms in Rural hilly and tribal areas of the country and 20 kms in other areas if one of the following three condition is met:—

(i) The calling and called exchange are. both in the same SDCA.

(ii) Even if the calling and the called exchange are not within the same SDCA, the corresponding SDCAs are within a distance of 30/20 Kms from each other as the case may be.

(iii) Local areas of the calling and the called exchanges have a common boundary even if they fall in adjacent SDCAs.

2. The concessional rates will take effect from 1-1-1996. The financial impact of the package will be about Rs. 200 crores per year.

Modernisation and Develoment of Meat and Poultry Proceeding

*258. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of modernisation and development plans of Government for meat and poultry processing;

(b) the financial assistance provided by Government to various organisations for training the artisans and managers engaged in the Plan schemes, during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the flumber of artisans and managers trained during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH